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OREGON NEWS ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers.

The annual Bend flower show will be held Wednesday, August 20.

Value of exports from Astoria to foreign ports during July was \$240,804.

The cost per capita for educating high-school students in Albany for the year 1923-1924 was \$84.15.

The first irrigation project in Lane county has been completed by L. C. Ables of Eugene for his 285-acre farm north of Springfield.

Construction of a ferry for use in crossing the Umpqua river at Scottsburg will be started at once by the Douglas county court.

July was one of the driest months ever experienced in Bend. There was not a single cloudy day, and only .2 of an inch of rain fell.

Building activities in Salem during the month of July were approximately 29 per cent greater than during the corresponding month a year ago.

While using a shotgun to shoot rats on his ranch home in the Columbia district near Hermiston, Charles Belcho, 75, accidentally killed himself.

The state supreme court has recessed until September 1. Most of the justices will spend their vacations at beach resorts and mountain retreats.

While July was a quiet month in the lumber trade of the Columbia river district, more than 61,000,000 feet of lumber was shipped from the river by water.

A parlor car attached to the north-bound limited passenger train on the Oregon Electric line caught fire between Salem and Donald and was destroyed.

Work on the North Umpqua section of the Umpqua highway is to be started at once, according to J. M. Meyers, United States engineer with the bureau of public roads.

The rainfall at Baker for the first seven months this year amounted to 3.2 inches, which is 5.27 inches below the average of 84 years in which records have been kept.

The state highway commission and Tillamook county court have filed petitions with the public service commission asking for the elimination of a grade crossing in Bay City.

Building construction was 30 per cent larger in Portland in July than in the same period of 1923, bank clearings showed a substantial increase over the same month last year, and postal receipts were 4.9 per cent greater.

Miss Emma Mina Hockenberry, 19, of Fresno, Cal., was killed and her father, M. B. Hockenberry, suffered minor injuries, when an automobile in which they were riding plunged off the Pacific highway three miles south of Salem and turned over.

There was a total of 1232 arrests resulting from the activities of operatives of the state traffic department during the six months ending July 1, 1924, according to a report by T. A. Raffety, chief inspector for the state motor vehicle division.

J. R. Nunamaker, known as the cherry king of Hood River, although he has less than four acres of the fruit, received a check from the Hood River Apple Growers' association for \$12,701.83, the returns from his harvest of 6072 boxes of assorted varieties.

Because of the growth of business connected with the state fair, the fair board has found it advisable to create the office of manager and has appointed J. E. McClintock of Roseburg to fill the position. Mr. McClintock has served for nine years as auditor at the state fair.

A new world's record for harvesting flax has been established at the ranch of A. E. Bradley, south of Salem, who with the assistance of a patented puller purchased a year ago has pulled more than 120 acres of the product since July 7. This is an average of more than six acres a day.

Klamath county farmers will receive 100 per cent more for their hay crop this year than last, according to reports of early sales in the district. In 1923 the new crop moved at from \$6 to \$8 a ton. The first sales this year were made at \$12.50 and \$15 is considered the present market price.

It is doubtful if there is sufficient water in Big Butte creek to supply both the city of Medford and the Eagle Point irrigation district, according to Rhea Luper, state engineer. The city of Medford is seeking to divert approximately 30 second feet of this water for municipal purposes at a cost of \$600,000. The present supply of water is from Little Butte creek, but this flow is not of a quality demanded by the municipality.

George W. Riddle, for three years commandant of the old soldiers' home at Roseburg, was removed from his position at a special meeting of the state board of control. William M. Hendershott of Portland was elected by the board to succeed Judge Riddle.

Fines assessed in cases resulting from the activities of the state prohibition department during the six months ending July 1, 1924, aggregated \$77,607.49, while the expenses of conducting the department were \$15,451.37, according to a report prepared by George L. Cleaver, state prohibition director.

Directors of the Oregon Growers' Co-operative association have agreed to allow the Northwest Prune Exchange to use the trade name "Mistland" on its products. The trade label was adopted by the Oregon growers' association several years ago, and large quantities of fruit have been sold under this brand.

Protests against the proposal of the state forestry department to close the timbered districts to hunters because of unfavorable fire conditions are coming in. The protests are based on newspaper reports that the state board of forestry had been called to meet in Salem Friday to consider postponement of the opening date of the deer season.

Gravel has been laid on part of the seven-mile unit of the Roosevelt highway between Glasgow and Hauser. The grading for the entire distance is nearly finished. When this unit of the highway is finished there will be a continuous hard surface over the Roosevelt highway from Hauser to Corbin, Curry county, a distance of 83 miles.

Will H. Moore, state insurance commissioner, has prepared a public letter urging all persons having dealings with real estate agents to keep copies of any agreements they make for the purchase or sale of property. This procedure, Mr. Moore said, would aid his department materially in bringing unscrupulous real estate dealers to justice.

The Pendleton Round-up, for many years heralded on the motion picture screen, will be the background of a special picture this year which will be built around the show by the Universal Picture corporation. The contract permitting the motion picture concern to be on the grounds during the show was signed last week by officials of the Round-up and the corporation.

Because water in the North Umpqua is so low that the fish cannot get over the dam and fish ladder at Winchester, the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club has obtained an order from the state fish commission stationing a man with a dip net at the dam to transfer summer steelheads and salmon trout from the shallow water below the obstruction to the deeper water above.

Indians of the Klamath reservation in Oregon will receive a total of \$6,900,000 as a result of four sales by the department of the interior in the last few months of ripe timber on the Froot creek, Squaw flat, North Marsh and Long Prairie units of that reservation. The contracts include approximately 1,000,000,000 feet of timber, for which the Indians are to receive exceptional prices obtained through competitive bidding.

Hearing of the suit instituted by eight railroads operating in Oregon to restrain the public service commission from enforcing an order reducing freight rates on hay and other farm products was started in the circuit court at Salem. The order was issued more than six months ago and provided for reductions in freight rates of approximately 25 per cent. The railroads are protesting the order on the grounds that it is discriminatory in that it favors shipments of farm products from Washington into Oregon.

An experiment in growing watermelons, with the object in view of ascertaining the productivity, quality and marketability of more than 20 different varieties, has been completed by The Dalles-Wasco county chamber of commerce, with results which are expected to have an important bearing on the production of melons in this district, within the next several years. All Wasco county melons are being marketed this year through The Dalles Co-operative Growers' association, with each melon stamped with the association label of "Dalco."

Three measures, one increasing the gasoline tax one cent per gallon, the second setting aside the water in the Clear Lake district for use of Willamette valley towns and the third providing for joint incorporation of 18 valley cities as a water district, will be recommended by Governor Pierce in his message to the 1925 legislature. This decision was the outcome of a trip of nearly 100 Willamette valley men to Clear Lake, in the interest of obtaining a better water supply for the central Willamette valley cities. The governor, members of the highway commission, the engineering department and various ranches of the state government accompanied the party.

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